



Robin K. Matsunaga  
Ombudsman

Mark G.S. Au  
First Assistant

**OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN  
STATE OF HAWAII**

465 South King Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
Tel: 808-587-0770 Fax: 808-587-0773 TTY: 808-587-0774  
complaints@ombudsman.hawaii.gov

**TESTIMONY OF ROBIN K. MATSUNAGA, OMBUDSMAN,  
ON H.B. NO. 126, A BILL FOR AN ACT  
MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT COST ITEMS**

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT**

**FEBRUARY 3, 2015**

Chair Nakashima and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in support of H.B. No. 126.

The purpose of this bill is to provide the funds necessary to cover cost items and cost adjustments for employees of the legislative agencies. Your favorable consideration of this bill will allow it to continue to be available as a vehicle throughout this legislative session, should the Legislature later determine that such cost items and adjustments are warranted, and would be appreciated.

Thank you for your consideration.



LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU  
State of Hawaii  
State Capitol, Room 446  
415 S. Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

## Written Comments

### **HB126 MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT COST ITEMS**

Comments by the Legislative Reference Bureau  
Charlotte A. Carter-Yamauchi, Acting Director

Presented to the House Committee on Labor and Public Employment

Tuesday, February 3, 2015, 9:00 a.m.  
Conference Room 309

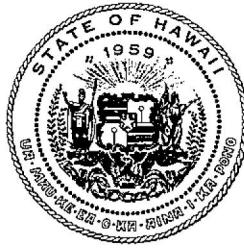
Chair Nakashima and Members of the Committee:

Good morning Chair Nakashima and members of the Committee, my name is Charlotte Carter-Yamauchi and I am the Acting Director of the Legislative Reference Bureau. Thank you for providing the opportunity to submit written comments in support of H.B. No. 126, Making Appropriations for Public Employment Cost Items.

The purpose of this bill is to appropriate funds for the public employment cost items of and cost adjustments for employees of legislative service agencies, the Senate, and the House of Representatives.

As you know, the staff of the Legislature and the legislative service agencies are excluded from collective bargaining. The Bureau strongly supports the measure's continued progress through the legislative process so that a viable legislative vehicle will remain available should the Legislature later determine that such cost items and adjustments are warranted.

Thank you again for your consideration.



**TESTIMONY OF JAN K. YAMANE, ACTING STATE AUDITOR,  
ON HOUSE BILL NO. 126, MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR PUBLIC  
EMPLOYMENT COST ITEMS**

**House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
February 3, 2015**

Chair Nakashima and Members of the Committee:

I am Jan Yamane, Acting State Auditor. Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of House Bill No. 126, making appropriations for public employment cost items. The purpose of this bill is to fund Hawai'i employer-union health benefits trust fund and other cost adjustments authorized by Chapter 89C, Hawai'i Revised Statutes, for legislative officers and employees excluded from collective bargaining, including staff in my office. We encourage passage of this bill unamended. I am available for questions should you have any.



# HAWAII STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

State of Hawaii • Bishop Square, 1001 Bishop Street, ASB Tower 970 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

---

## TESTIMONY OF THE HAWAII STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

**BILL NO:** H.B. 126, MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT COST ITEMS

**TO:** The Honorable Mark M. Nakashima, Chair  
The Honorable Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair  
The Honorable Members  
House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
State Capitol, Room 310  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

**FROM:** Hawaii State Ethics Commission

**DATE:** Tuesday, February 3, 2015

**TIME:** 9:00 a.m.

**ROOM:** Conference Room 309

---

The Hawaii State Ethics Commission (“Commission”) requests the Committee’s support of H.B. 126, which is to appropriate additional funds to the legislative agencies, including the Commission, to fund Hawaii employer-union health benefits trust fund costs and other cost adjustments authorized by chapter 89C, Hawaii Revised Statutes, for legislative officers and employees excluded from collective bargaining.

The Commission’s requested budget for FY 2015-2016 does not include any amount to fund the costs associated with Hawaii employer-union health benefits trust fund costs and other cost adjustments that the Legislature may deem appropriate. It is critical that the Legislature appropriate additional funds for the Commission should the employees of the Executive departments be entitled to adjustments in benefits and pay. Without the additional appropriation, the Commission may be unable to provide its employees with similar adjustments.

Thank you for considering the Commission’s testimony on H.B. 126.



49 South Hotel Street, Room 314 | Honolulu, HI 96813  
[www.lwv-hawaii.com](http://www.lwv-hawaii.com) | 808.531.7448 | [voters@lwvhawaii.com](mailto:voters@lwvhawaii.com)

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment

**Tuesday, February 3, 2015, 9:00 AM in House Conference Room 309**

**H.B. 126 MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT COST ITEMS**

Makes appropriation for the public employment cost items of and cost adjustments  
for employees of the various legislative agencies.

TESTIMONY

**League of Women Voters of Hawaii**

**Chair Mark Nakashima, Vice-Chair Jarrett Keohokalole, and Committee Members:**

The League of Women Voters of Hawaii supports an adequate appropriation for public employment cost items; therefore, the League **supports H.B. 126** to fund for fiscal year 2015-2016 the Hawaii employer-union health benefits trust fund costs and other cost adjustments for legislative officers and employees excluded from collective bargaining, including the State Ethics Commission, Office of the Auditor, and others.